



**NCSE** | National Center for School Engagement  
~ Promoting attendance, attachment, and achievement for school success

**Colorado  
Youth  
for a  
Change**



## **Integrated Systems Improvement for Dropout Prevention & Retrieval**

### **Minimum Requirements for a School District**

- A commitment of at least three years to do the work
- Build prototypes as manageable units to scale up later (preferably one complete feeder system)
- Leadership buy-in at district and feeder school level
- Authentic vertical and horizontal articulation from Pre -K to start of Post Secondary
- One point of contact in the district that champions the work and owns it
- Sufficient resources to support the program development
- Ability to reinvest recovered costs to support program costs

### **Needs Assessment:**

- Analysis of current data for Early Warning System, credit status, student data
- Analysis of current continuum of student supports and alternative pathways to graduation
- Analysis of gaps and redundancies in continuum
- Analysis of four critical transitions: beginning school, elementary to middle, middle to high, high school to post-secondary
- Analysis and Alignment of district and building level policies and practice
- Implement Policy and Practice Assessment

### **Strategies:**

- Create a **3-year Action Plan** based on analyses
- **Data System Improvement** based on analysis results
- Implement the **Early Warning System** at critical transition points
- Engage students and parents in **changing school culture**
- Implement **deep-end intervention and recovery** strategies
- Offer **professional development** to leadership and teachers

### **Benchmarks:**

- Complete continuum of supports for students that keep them on track for graduation;
- Pre-determined % of dropouts recovered and back in school successfully
- Improved daily attendance
- High quality Alternative educational settings in place
- Policy and practice aligned at the district and school building level
- 3 year Action Plan guiding the process
- Responsive data system in place to support an accurate, real-time Early Warning System and data-driven decision making for student interventions and improvements
- Increased student engagement: Attendance-Attachment-Achievement

### **Ultimate Outcome**

Increase graduation rate each year (% increase year 1, % increase year 2, % increase year 3)

# Building an Integrated System of Dropout Prevention and Retrieval:

## Colorado Graduates Initiative Planning Model

